

DAINTY MODES RULE.

Fine Handwork Lavished on the New Frocks.

GOWNS FOR SOUTHERN TRIPS.

Lines of Spring and Summer Fashions Made Clear.

No Radical Changes Expected—The Linzerie Princess Gown Likely to Be Popular in Its Several Forms Next Summer—The Hand Embroidery to Be More Than Ever Exquisite—Hebe Gowns Especially Fetching Among the New Models—The Elbow Sleeve Preferred—Features of the Frocks in Light Goods—Circular Cut in Walking Skirts.

Each year the spring materials are on view a trifle earlier than they were the year before, but all records are broken this season, and the lines of materials and of ready-made models is more complete and attractive than ever before at this time of the year.

As was said last week, the increasing importance of the Southern season in American society's calendar has much to do with this state of things, but the merchants say, too, that there is a general demand, even among the stay-at-homes, for very early fashion information and



OF WHITE LINENS.

supplies. Women are wisely taking advantage of the between seasons lull in dressmaking to prepare such a part of their summer outfit as can be made ready now, and in this way they may avoid the rush and the delays of the late spring dressmaking turmoil.

For certain frocks it is well to wait until the last word has been said on the modes for the coming season, until dressmakers and buyers have made their spring pilgrimage to Paris and have brought back the latest edict of the fashion makers, the latest thing in exclusive materials and trimmings. But the ordinary woman requires pretty, warm, weather frocks remarkable for dainty freshness, practical laundering qualities and inexpensiveness, rather than for elaborate elegance, and she can readily obtain the materials for such frocks now and have them made up at any time, without fear of their being out of fashion before summer comes.

The day of very radical and sudden changes in frock lines seems to have gone by. The changes still come, but they come gradually, and even when they are accomplished they are usually not so sweeping as first indications led observers to prophesy.

The beauty of a golden mean appears to have dawned upon the comprehension of the fashion makers, and though they still love the novel, they do not often insist upon the bizarre and the extreme. Of course there is no telling what frocks may be launched from month to month, what odd fashion notes may find acceptance among the elite, but few women pretend to live up to fashion's latest whims, and there is no reason to believe that a frock



GREEN LINEN.

made conservatively in the modish winter fashion will not be quite correct for spring and summer.

The first linen and muslin frocks displayed by the houses which cater to the smart Southern and band contingent are evidently made with this assurance in mind. They follow accepted lines, but those ideas are cleverly modified and adapted to the summer stuffs, and if these models are any criterion, we are certainly to have a summer of most attractive frocks.

The long, princess gown was especially popular in the last summer, but it is highly probable that it will be worn in some form or another in the coming season, for it is one of the most fashionable wave here. The genuine princess is

difficult of achievement in any material, but there are many phases of the model, and some of these are not extravagantly difficult to handle.

Directoire and Empire modifications enter into the princess idea this season—girdling below the bust, across the top of the bust or above the bust—and there are many frocks in which the princess lines are obtained by trimming or by a continuous front panel.



WHITE LINEN.

while the rest of the frock is cut in two parts and joined by lace, insertion or some form of grille around the sides and back.

One of the lingerie frocks of the large group, for example, was of white batiste, elaborately embroidered and trimmed with a heavy lace insertion that seemed to be a morocco chum. Inset bands of this lace ran from shoulders to waist, narrowing in their downward course until they nearly met at the waist line, below which they were continued on the skirt, gradually broadening until they met the ornate trimming on the bottom of the frock.

The front of the blouse between the lace lines was almost entirely filled in by ex-

cess last summer that it will be quite natural for the fastidious to avoid it in its most conventional forms, and it is evidently to meet this probability that the manufacturers have supplied all these insertions and bounings and appliques and all overs of wonderfully fine tracery and lace work effects. Look, for instance, at the very sheer batiste all over embroidery, which has little wreaths of minute flowers and blossoms embroidered at two inch intervals all over its surface, while scattered here and there without conventional spacing are small embroidered eyelets.

This material is altogether charming over either white or color and is only one sample of a large class. Much bolder and very effective, if not so charming, is the material which has an embroidered design of vine and leaf embroidered in exceedingly high relief. Only the outline of the leaf is embroidered, valencienness being inset to form the body of the leaf.

Combinations of embroidery and valencienness are as numerous as they were last summer, and there are many beautiful effects in swiss or batiste embroidery and chum. Crocheted insertions and medallions of all kinds seem likely to have a great vogue, and some of the very smartest lingerie frock models, sheer as gossamer, show insertions, or rather heavy crochet, which looks much like hand work open stitchery done upon the gown itself rather than inset.

was a good example of this idea successfully developed, and though not so costly as the hand embroidered princess, already described, was one of the most chic and charming gowns seen in the early exhibit. It was of the very finest and sheerest Swiss lawn, slightly more crisp than batiste, yet quite as dainty, and an inset band of hand-made insertion girdling the frock just below the bust line gave a Directoire touch to the princess model.

Below this girdle the frock was a true princess cut, all in one, and shaped to the waist, by little vertical tucks which, however, followed in front the straight, loose line of which mention has been made. Clinging around the hips the skirt flared gradually to immense fullness at bottom,

some distance above the elbow, after the prevailing style and finished by numerous little lace edged frills running around the bottom and up the outside of the sleeve to the shoulder.

As for the linen frocks, they promise to be more delightful than ever. Elaborate linen models incrustated with lace and wonderfully embroidered are blossoming out in profusion, but the linen frocks that will appeal most irresistibly to the average woman are the jaunty coat and skirt costumes which suggest summer outings and are practical even for the woman of moderate dress allowance.

To be sure, the first shown models of this class are not inexpensive, though, in comparison with the wonderful creations



THE FINEST OF WHITE GOWNS OF MULL, LAWN AND NET TRIMMED WITH LACE AND EMBROIDERY.

quisite hand embroidery. A wealth of the same embroidery, combined with inset lace, trimmed the bottom of the skirt; the elbow sleeves, though full, were shirred vertically on fine cords at intervals around the arm and cuffs of embroidery turned back upon them.

Joining waist and skirt around sides and back ran an inset line of the heavy lace, and flutings and pleats gave the propounding closeness to the blouse and the skirt top. A mere trifle of \$200 was the price that went with this simple muslin frock, but the price was not too high when one considers the amount of handwork lavished upon the frock and the skill that went into its designing.

The hand embroidery of the coming season is to be more than ever exquisite, and there is on the new lingerie blouses and frocks and on the blouse and robe patterns there is observed a tendency toward line and delicate designs relieved by little inset motifs of lace or drawn work or by occasional open work eyelets, there are, too, superb designs in very heavy raised embroidery, and the openwork *broderie Anglaise* has by no means had its day.

Broderie Anglaise was worn to such

There are, too, heavy net insertions which convey the same impression, and some of these heavy nets have rows of dots embroidered upon them.

The robe patterns in lingerie beggar description, and the very deep flouncings, wide enough to make a skirt length, are not only shown in the most lovely and intricate of embroidery designs, but are made with bordering of inset lace and embroidery, groups of fine tucks, inset motifs, &c., so that when made up they will form the most elaborately trimmed of skirts.

Corresponding trimming is, of course, furnished for blouse trimming. These half-made materials and robes are expensive when fine, but to buy the trimming and hire some one to do the work would cost more.

The type of lingerie princess known to Parisians as the *l'été* figures among the loveliest of the new models. It clings to the figure on the sides and in the back, but in the front is slightly full, or, to speak more accurately, straight, following the line that might be called an exaggerated straight front corset line, below the bust, and making no pretence of curving in to the figure at the waist line.

The model sketched for the central cut

of lace and embroidery and sheer muslins, they seem so. These model coat and skirt frocks are from good designers and prepared for the edification of people that can afford to pay for forced season luxuries, but they give an idea of what is to be expected later, and the same designs will probably figure at half the price a few months from now, though the frocks may not be so well cut and tailored.

As was indicated last week, short loose coats of the caraco are likely to be a summer fad, and boleros are, as usual, bobbing up serenely. Whether the long close-fitting coat will receive much attention remains to be seen, but it is doubtful, and the half length loose coat with box or belted back is not as yet in evidence among the best models.

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WHITE LINEN AND LACE.

last summer. When freshly donned it has a certain smartness which is enough to account for its vogue, but after one has once sat down in it and crumpled the skirts it is a lamentable sight, and the French makers show their wisdom in choosing short coat models for a majority of their linen costumes.

Biscuit and string colors are unusually

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linens, and some of the smartest linen frocks seen were in these cool tones. Two of these have been sketched.

One, a rather coarse linen of the *taille ancienne* order, was in string color and was made with a short circular skirt, laid in plaits down the middle front, stitched round the bottom, and with a group of flatly stitched plaits concealing the placket. The coat was a modified caraco, ending just below

trim severe, yet with daintiness and individuality, are the ideal morning frocks for beach, casino, &c., and are practical, save in one detail—the circular cut of the skirt. It is a feature of all the most charming new linen models, this circular skirt, and it is most attractive in its unworn state, but the matter of fact woman will not be able to avoid wondering what the laundress will do to it. We are told that firm linen



HAND EMBROIDERED LINEN.

the waist, loose in front, and fitting in to the back with a slightly short waisted curve.

The shape at its best is exceedingly jaunty. Narrow stitched bands of the linen bordering inset bands of heavy string colored lace trimmed the coat front, the collarless neck and the sleeves.

In biscuit, or rather in a cool putty color, was another linen costume, whose short circular skirt had a yoke and front breadth cut in one and whose coat was a bolero reaching to the waist line. This little coat had bands of fine transverse tucking in the linen, bordered by narrow stitched bands, for trimming; and linen frogs and covered buttons were also in the trimming scheme.

Such frocks as these, beautifully tailored,



OF PALE PINK LINEN.

which has been thoroughly shrunken will keep its circular shape much better than the woolen goods with which we have been scrugging this winter, but it seems certain that these skirts will demand very careful ironing.

There is no denying, however, that the circular cut gives most attractive lines to these walking skirts, and it is undoubtedly to be the cut of the season.

A pink linen bolero costume which repeats the circular skirt, and narrow band trimming, of which we have been speaking, has an added touch of daintiness in the dainty hand made collar and cuffs of sheer white batiste and valencienness, and similar cuffs are turned back upon the loose elbow sleeves of a great many of the linen coats, which are of course supposed to fall over a fluffy inner blouse sleeve that will fill the wide opening of the loose coat sleeve.

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